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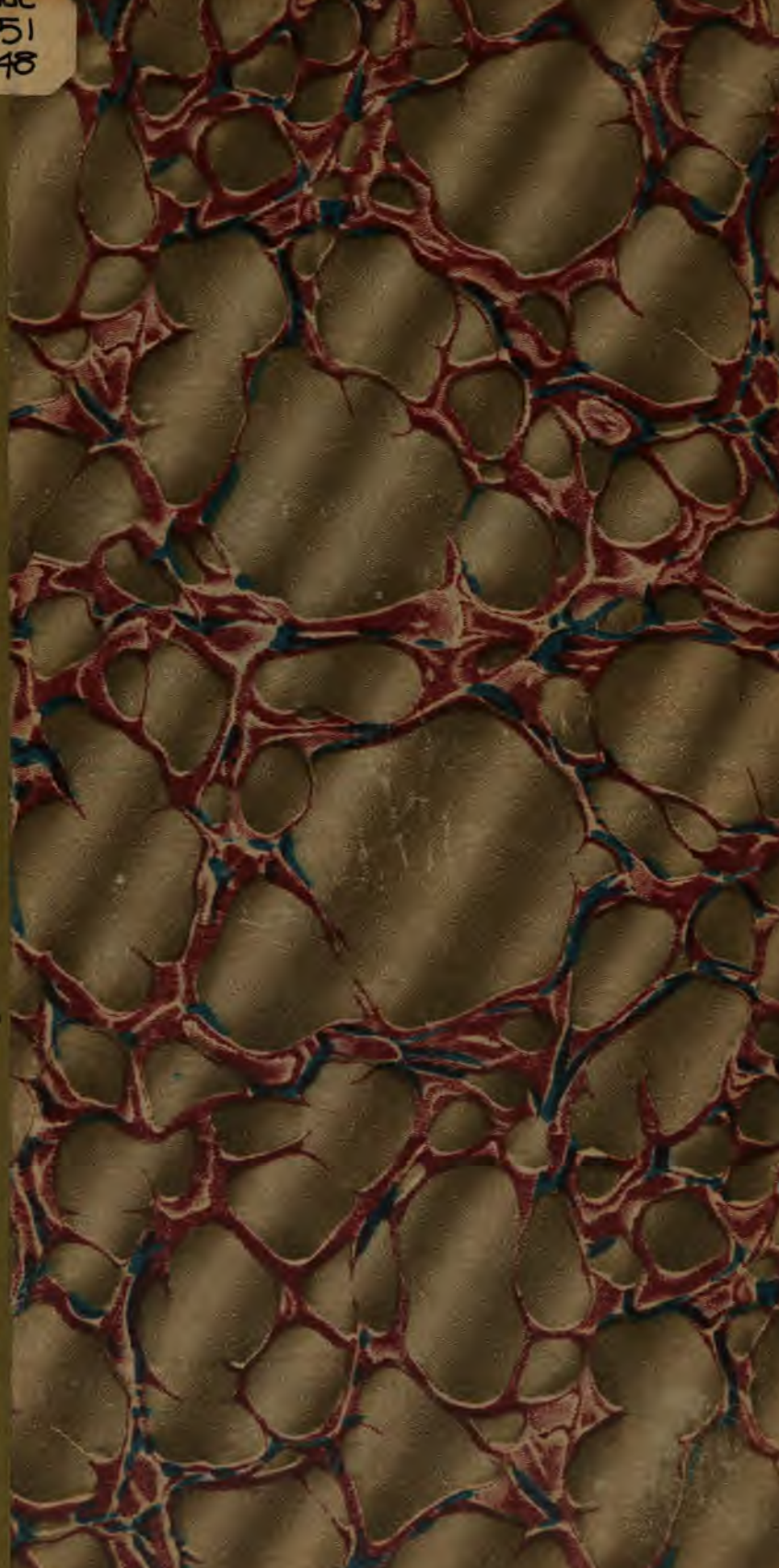
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Remarks at Hearing before the Joint
Committee of Education - 1848

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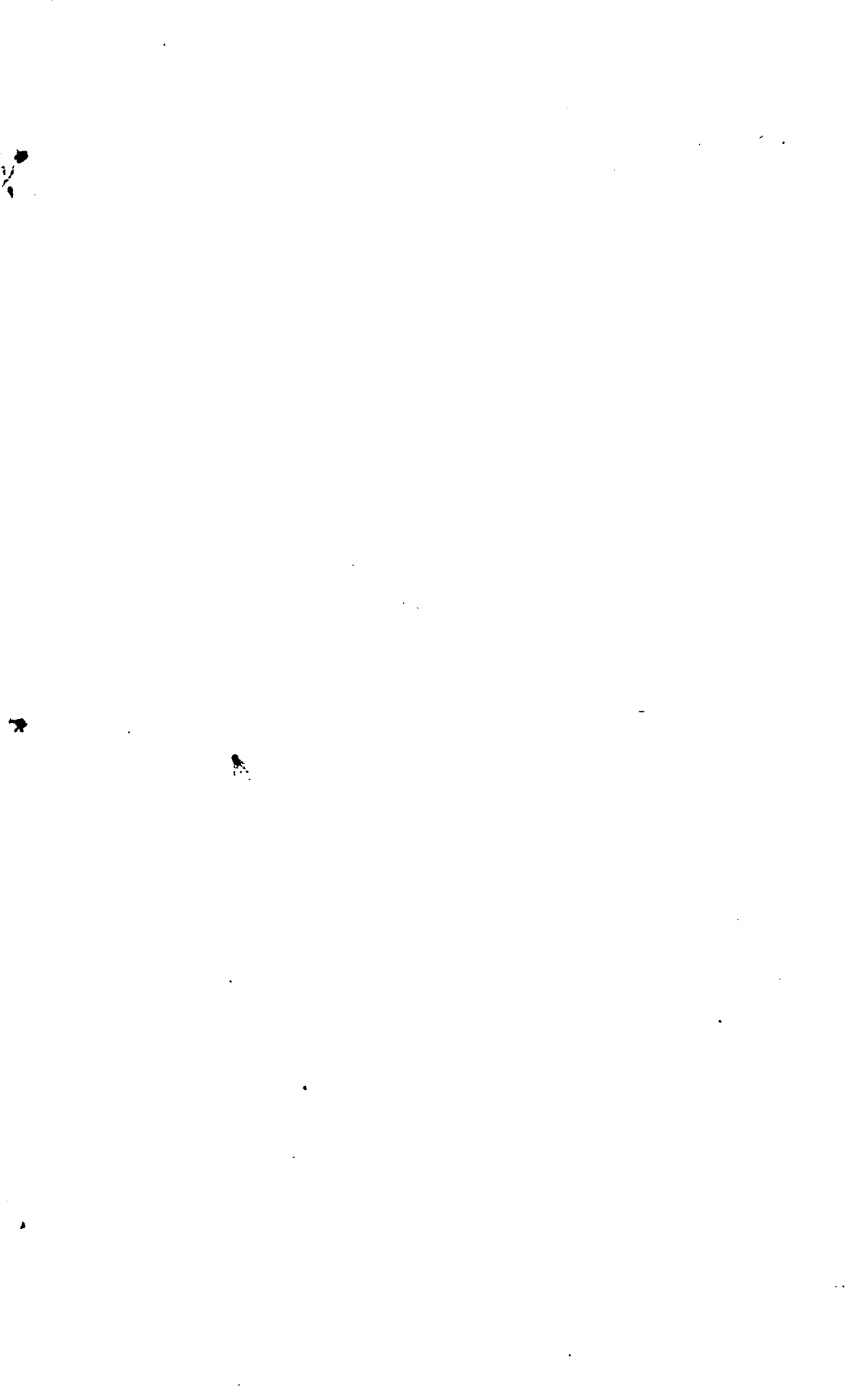


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REMARKS

AT A HEARING BEFORE THE

JOINT COMMITTEE OF EDUCATION,

1 FEBRUARY, 1848,

IN AID OF

THE MEMORIAL OF THE COLLEGES.

CAMBRIDGE:

METCALF AND COMPANY,

PRINTERS TO THE UNIVERSITY.

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REMARKS.

At the commencement of the session of the legislature, the following memorial was presented to the two Houses :—

To the Honorable the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, in General Court assembled, the Memorial of the President and Fellows of Harvard College, and the Presidents and Trustees of Williams and Amherst Colleges, respectfully shows :—

That while, at all periods of the history of the Commonwealth, the perception of the value of knowledge and intellectual cultivation has led the people, in their public and private capacities, “to cherish the interests of literature and the sciences, and all seminaries of them,” there is yet reason to think that the general estimate of the importance of education, in the widest sense, has scarcely kept pace with the proofs which have been given of its vast benefits. The experience of the few last years, however, has done much to expand the views of mankind everywhere on the subject, and particularly in some of the leading States of our own country ; and your memorialists persuade themselves that the people of Massachusetts will not be found behind those of any other portion of the globe in their desire to extend the advantages of mental culture as widely and thoroughly as possible. The legislature at every period has done much, and private persons in every part of the Commonwealth have also done much, to prove that they were prepared to make great efforts

and sacrifices for this most important object ; and there is no single thing in its civil administration which, directly and indirectly, has given to this Commonwealth a prouder distinction than the extent of its facilities for education. In this, however, as in every path of improvement, each step forward furnishes new motives and new power to advance ; and your memorialists rely on the honorable ambition which has ever distinguished the people of Massachusetts, to justify the application to her legislature for aid in the great cause to which they have devoted much of their own thought and labor. The provision for elementary education, thanks to the wise arrangements of our forefathers, and of the legislature within a few years past, seems to be all that can be desired, or that can be advantageously done by the legislature. The rest may well be left to individual forethought, sagacity, and energy. But no endowments of a permanent character have yet been made by legislative authority for the promotion of those higher branches of education which are sought in colleges, and for which, to a very honorable extent, a foundation has been laid by private generosity. It is well known to your memorialists,—indeed it is so obvious as to be perceived by all,—that there exists a great and increasing demand for this more finished education in this Commonwealth, while, notwithstanding all that has been done for the purpose, the means of obtaining such an education are lamentably deficient in our best institutions. Your memorialists, therefore, respectfully pray your honorable body to grant them such aid in the attainment of an object, the importance of which no one will question, as the present flourishing condition of the finances of the Commonwealth will fully justify ; and, without withdrawing any thing from the means set aside for the benefit of common schools, so to extend and enlarge that fund, from the same resources from which it has arisen, that it may become a fund for education in general, in colleges as well as in schools,—the income of the additional portion to be so divided among the several colleges of the State as to the wisdom of the legislature shall seem best ; and to be directed to such purposes, whether the increase of

apparatus, as books, instruments, and collections of natural objects, the general diminution of the charge for instruction, or the aid of the more indigent students, as the legislature shall prescribe.

The experience of your memorialists enables them to declare emphatically, that in any and all of these modes of usefulness the most copious bounty would not be lost; but, on the contrary, so numerous and great are the deficiencies of means, that many whose education would be in the highest degree useful to the public cannot even attempt to seek it, while, of all those who are able to make the effort, not one fails to find the most serious obstacles to his progress, for want of the books and collections which cannot yet be found in this country. Funds large enough for these purposes cannot be expected from private liberality, great and constant as it has been; but in the present condition of the Commonwealth, and by those prospective arrangements contemplated by your memorialists, few things would seem easier, or more honorable, than to make an ample and permanent provision for the best education of the whole people, and thus for the greatest prosperity, the most extended and the most beneficent influence of the Commonwealth.

By order of the President and Fellows of Harvard College,

EDWARD EVERETT, *President.*

In behalf of the Trustees of Williams College,

MARK HOPKINS, *President.*

By order of the Trustees of Amherst College,

EDWARD HITCHCOCK, *President.*

January 5th, 1848.

This memorial, together with memorials from a large number of the most respectable citizens of the Commonwealth, in aid of the same, was referred to the Joint Committee of Education.

The Committee appointed Tuesday afternoon, 1st February, for a private hearing, and invited the Presidents of the three Colleges, and other persons interested in the general object, to meet them on that occasion in the Committee's room, for a free conference.

The President and Treasurer of Harvard College, Rev. Dr. Hitchcock, President of Amherst College, Hon. W. B. Calhoun, Secretary of State and a Trustee of Amherst College, John Tappan, Esq., also a Trustee of Amherst, Edmund Dwight, Esq., of Boston, and a few other gentlemen, friends of education and of the Colleges, were present.

A letter was read by the Hon. Orin Fowler, Chairman of the Joint Standing Committee, from Rev. Dr. Hopkins, President of Williams College, expressive of his regret that he was unable to attend.

The Chairman of the Committee having read the memorial of the institutions, invited the gentlemen present and representing them, to submit to the Committee such statements as they might think proper. President Everett observed that he was, with the Treasurer of Harvard College, in attendance on the Committee, and ready to give them all the information in their power. He had not come prepared to make any formal address, which seemed, in fact, to be excluded by the place and the occasion; but he thought it probable that they should be able (the Treasurer and himself), to satisfy the Committee on any point on which they might wish to receive information.

The Chairman then read an order which had been passed by the legislature, to the following effect, and observed that it might aid gentlemen in the choice of subjects, to which they might choose to ask the attention of the Committee:—

“Ordered that the Joint Standing Committee on Education be directed to ascertain from the Presidents or other officers of the several colleges in this Commonwealth the amounts which they have severally received from individuals, societies, or this Commonwealth since their establishment;—

“Also the amounts respectively of their funds available

for the purposes of education, at this present time, together with the value of their buildings and grounds, whether used in connection with the Colleges or otherwise ; —

“ Also the number of volumes in their respective libraries for the use of undergraduates, and the extent and value of their philosophical and other apparatus ; —

“ Also the number of undergraduates now pursuing collegiate studies within the same.”

President Everett stated, that, as soon as this order was placed in his hands, no time should be lost in furnishing the desired information, as far as the University at Cambridge was concerned. A statement of all the donations and bequests to that institution had been drawn up and printed by the Treasurer (Hon. S. A. Eliot), three years ago. A revised edition of this statement was in the course of preparation, and should be furnished to each member of the Committee. In the mean time he held in his hand a copy of the last Annual Report of the Treasurer, from which a considerable portion of the information sought for in the first inquiry of the Committee might be derived. Following that document as a guide, he would ask the attention of the Committee to a brief account of the state of the funds of the University at Cambridge, and of the wants of the institution.

Very exaggerated ideas, continued President Everett, prevail on this subject. The University, no doubt, is richly endowed. I certainly am the last person to speak disparagingly of its resources. Thanks to the munificence of the public in early and latter days, and to the bounty of a long line of private benefactors, its foundations are numerous ; its endowments liberal ; its income considerable, although this last is often extravagantly overrated. But large as the means of the institution are, it remains not the less true, that the funds at its command for general purposes of expenditure are small ; that it has no means whatever applicable to many objects of great importance in a place of education ; and that several of the items which swell the aggregate of its funds add nothing to its ability to carry on the work of education. All this will be made to appear to the entire satisfaction of the Committee.

I have referred to the last Annual Report of the Treasurer of the College, of which the concluding section (No. VII. pp. 27, 29) contains a summary statement of the property of the institution, amounting in the whole to the sum of \$ 784,202 ; and this large sum is exclusive of the College buildings, Library, Cabinets, and grounds. These are not included in the statement of the corporate property, because to the College they have no exchangeable pecuniary value, and yield no income. If they answer the ends of their erection and formation, they of course supersede the necessity of further drafts upon the Academic treasury for these purposes, but further than this they yield nothing toward its support. The rents paid by the occupants of the rooms do not exceed, if they equal, the annual expense of repairs. The buildings appropriated for residence are even inadequate for the reception of the students. Out of 270, the present number of undergraduates, 170 only find accommodation within the College walls. The oldest of our College buildings, having been erected in 1720, is approaching the state in which it will cease to be worth repairing. The same may be said of the dwelling-house of the President, a wooden building, also erected in the year 1720. We are greatly deficient in lecture-rooms, and the want of a new Chapel has been represented, in the last two annual reports of the President, as one of the most urgent nature. These facts are mentioned in this connection, to show the propriety of omitting any estimated value of the buildings in the general aggregate of the College funds. They not only add nothing to its productive means, but they are of such a description and in such a condition, relative to the wants of the institution, that very large drafts must, at no distant period, be made upon its resources for additional accommodations of buildings.

The nominal aggregate of the property of the institution is, as has been stated, \$ 784,202.* It is, however, subject to great deductions, of two kinds. First, there is a considerable amount of a wholly unproductive character, and estimated

* In all the amounts given on this occasion, cents are omitted.

by the Treasurer at \$115,241. This is one deduction. The other is that which must be made, for the purposes of the present inquiry, on account of the appropriation of a great amount of College property to specific purposes, other than those of the education of undergraduates. This item is stated by the Treasurer at \$280,371. The two together amount to \$395,612. Deducting this from the sum total above given, and there will be left available for the education of undergraduates \$388,589, which, at 5 per cent. interest, yields an income of \$19,429.

It will serve to dispel some of the misconceptions which exist on this subject, if we dwell for a moment upon the character of the appropriated funds. They are as follows :—

Those of the Law School accruing from the Royall legacy, the Dane foundation, and the fund accumulated from the surplus income of the School, an aggregate of \$41,855, of which not the smallest portion is applicable to any other object in the University than the service of the Law School.

The same remark is applicable to the funds appropriated to the Theological department. They amount to \$84,606. More than a tenth part of the entire funds of the University, but all devoted, by the will of the donors, to theological education.

The next item of appropriated funds is for the Library, amounting to \$16,549, the income of which is all that we have for the increase of this all-important establishment.

The aggregate of several funds given for prizes is \$10,872, nearly one third of which is for prizes in the Medical School.

The large sum of \$136,494 includes funds in trust for several purposes. Of these \$38,000 are appropriated at present to sundry annuitants under the will of the late Mr. Gore. Many years will elapse before this sum will inure to the benefit of the College. Sarah Winslow's donation, \$5,299, is for the support of a school in Tyngsborough; Daniel Williams's legacy, \$15,123, is for the preaching of the Gospel to the remnants of the Indian tribes in Massachusetts. The Sears fund, \$5,250, is accumulating for the support of an Astronomical Observer. The balance

of the subscription fund for that purpose, \$ 2,129, will be consumed the present year. Mr. Lawrence's munificent donation of \$ 50,000 is for an exclusive specific purpose.

Another item of \$ 28,788 is of funds for the support of indigent students. There is another fund, also, called the "Loan Fund," which, though not the property of the President and Fellows, and consequently not appearing at all in the statements of the property of Harvard College, is appropriated exclusively to the support of young men of narrow circumstances at Cambridge. These two funds yield about \$ 2,400 per annum, and are all the funds applicable to the assistance of young men of that description in the University.

There are a few other accumulating funds stated in the Treasurer's account, and now amounting in the aggregate to \$ 30,957, which are, equally with the preceding, inapplicable to any general expenditures, and necessarily confined to the precise purposes of their appropriation.

But even the item of funds applicable to the direct expenses of the work of education requires to be further explained. It amounts to a capital of \$ 258,407, given by various benefactors of the University for the support of specific branches of instruction. The liberality which has prompted these bequests, from time to time, will never cease to be borne in grateful remembrance by the children of Harvard, and by all who are intrusted with the management of its affairs. But it will not be thought ungracious to remark, that, liberal as these foundations are, there is scarce one of them whose income is adequate to the support of the branch of instruction to which it is appropriated by the donor. It is necessary, in nearly every case, that a considerable sum should be taken from the general treasury of the College, to make up the deficiency of the foundation. For instance, on the foundation of the Alford Professorship of Moral and Intellectual Philosophy, there is a deficit of this kind of \$ 679 annually; that is, so much is required to be taken from the general funds of the University to make up the salary of the Professor. On the Boylston foundation for the Professorship of Rhetoric and Oratory, there is a deficit of \$ 451; on the Eliot Professor-

ship of Greek Literature, of \$ 771. The Erving Professor receives \$ 1,200 per annum ; the income of the fund is but \$ 166. On the Perkins foundation for the Professorship of Mathematics, there is a deficit of \$ 1,000 annually. The Smith foundation for the Modern Languages yields an income of \$ 1,101 ; the sum of \$ 3,300 is paid to the Professor and three native instructors in that department. The Hollis Professorship of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy yields \$ 178 ; the Professor receives \$ 1,800, leaving \$ 1,622 to be made up from the general fund. The foundation for the Hollis Professorship of Divinity, which at various times has been the subject of public discussion, although somewhat increased by the accumulation of the interest of several years since the decease of the last incumbent, still amounts at the present time but to \$ 4,629, yielding an income of *two hundred and thirty-one dollars*. Whatever additional sum might be required, to make up the salary of a Professor in this department to the amount of seventeen or eighteen hundred dollars, must be taken from the funds of the College.

The entire amount of the funds applicable to the payment of salaries is \$ 258,407, representing an income of about \$ 13,000 annually. But it will appear, on turning to page twelfth of the Treasurer's Report, that the amount paid the last year to the persons engaged in the government and instruction of the College, including the President, Professors, Tutors, Librarians, and Proctors (but not including the Professors in any of the Professional Schools, and excluding a grant to the contractor of commons of \$ 390), was \$ 28,267, of which only \$ 13,000 was yielded by the permanent funds appropriated for this purpose, and the balance of \$ 15,000 was drawn from the general fund, or the annual income of the University.

And here it may be proper to make a remark¹ on the subject of salaries, which are supposed by some persons to be unreasonably high at Cambridge.* This opinion will not

* These remarks upon salaries have been added in drawing up this report for the press.

probably be entertained by any one in reference to the junior instructors, whose compensation is less than is paid to assistant teachers in the schools of the large towns. If any of the salaries are considered too high, it is those of the Professors, which range from \$ 1200 to \$ 2000. In reference to these, it may be observed that they are not higher than the salaries paid to persons engaged in pursuits which can be most conveniently compared with those of the Professors at Cambridge, as, for instance, the clergymen in Boston and the other large towns, whose salaries range from \$ 1200 to \$ 3000. It will be admitted by all, that highly respectable talent and the best education which the country affords are necessary for the satisfactory performance of the duties of a Professor at Cambridge, and that the compensation attached to the office is but a moderate reward for such qualifications. It is less than might be derived from other positions attainable by the same qualifications ; far less than the profits of the two lucrative professions, when successfully pursued. The expense of living is in almost every point as great in Cambridge as in Boston ; and the salaries are not higher than are required for the support and education of a family in a style of decent competence. The salary of the President is nominally somewhat larger (\$ 2500) than that of the Professors. Some misapprehension appeared to exist on this subject a few years ago, when it was assumed in the Board of Overseers, that, in addition to the salary, the President receives a considerable allowance, charged in the Treasurer's Report under the head of " expenses of the President's department," to the amount, in some years, of four or five hundred dollars. But this expenditure is all on the account of the College, as for printing, advertising, &c. No part of it is for the personal emolument of the President. The salary of \$ 2500 is in full, and it is subject to deductions for clerk-hire and certain expenditures incident to the office, amounting at least to \$ 500 per annum ; so that the net compensation of the President does not at all exceed, probably does not quite equal, \$ 2000 per annum, which will not perhaps be thought extravagant for an officer laboriously and exclusively employed, alike in term time and vacation, in the service of the institution.

Such is the state of the funds and of the demands upon them, in reference to which it may be farther observed, in a general way, that they are administered by a small body of men (the Corporation), whose members have no interest in a lavish expenditure, but obviously the reverse ; two only of whom (the President and Dr. Walker), are in the receipt of any salary, and that not for their services as members of the board ; and that it is the most incumbent duty and constant study of the Corporation to manage the funds intrusted to them with prudence and thrift. Errors may occasionally be committed in so large a trust, involving duties in detail so numerous and various ; but it is believed, with some confidence, that they are not greater, nor of more frequent occurrence, at Cambridge, than is inseparable from human affairs.

I proceed now (continued Mr. Everett), to the question, for what purposes the aid which the Colleges ask of the legislature is desired. What should we do with the income of the fund to be created, should the prayer of the memorial be granted ? It might be answered generally, that it would certainly be applied by the Trustees of the several Colleges for those purposes deemed most important in carrying on a plan of collegiate education, and which are of greatest urgency to the institutions respectively. Speaking for Cambridge, however, Sir, I should say, in the first place, that there are public objects of great interest to the institution, to which, nevertheless, we should not think of applying it. We need additional buildings for the residence of students, new lecture-rooms, a new conservatory at the Botanic Garden, and more than all, a new Chapel. These, however, are objects which we do not expect to compass from the legislative grant ; for which we must look, if anywhere, to the ever-flowing streams of private munificence, for which our Commonwealth has been so nobly distinguished among our sister States.

Supposing that it would be more satisfactory to the legislature, in creating a fund for the Colleges, to have its income appropriated to certain specific purposes, known and approved by the two Houses, the following may be mentioned as those which would be recommended for that purpose by the University at Cambridge : —

1. The reduction of the general expense of education. This at Cambridge is somewhat higher than at most other collegiate institutions in the country. We certainly do not admit that it is exorbitant. The entire charge for instruction and for the use of the Library is \$75 per annum. The additional charge of \$15 per annum, for rent and care of room, is not more than half what would be paid for the same accommodations in private boarding-houses in Cambridge and the vicinity. The charge of \$75 per annum, were it all considered as a charge for instruction, is less than is paid for the instruction of children of both sexes in several of the private *day schools* of Boston and other large towns. It will be borne in mind that at College provision is made, not merely for instruction, but for general supervision and care, three quarters of the year. No parent but must feel that this is a service well entitled to compensation.

Again, it is to be considered that the students at Cambridge may be divided into three classes ; viz. those, on the one hand, whose circumstances are affluent or very easy ; those, on the other hand, whose circumstances are very narrow ; and a middle class, the sons of parents who have little to spare and are obliged to study economy. In reference to the first class, the sons of the rich, there is no reason whatever why public or private benevolence should be taxed to furnish them a cheap education. As things are, there is no other mode in which parents of this description are able, or would be likely, to give their children an education on such easy terms. With respect to the opposite class, they enjoy the benefit of the funds given for the aid of meritorious students in indigent circumstances, and in this way the expense of education is reduced for them nearly or quite to nothing. About forty students of this class receive assistance ranging from \$40 to \$80 annually, averaging at least \$60 per annum, and reducing the expense for instruction, &c., to \$15 per annum. I deem it scarcely necessary to state, that these beneficiary funds are administered at Cambridge with entire impartiality ; — that no question is ever asked as to the religious opinions which may be entertained by the applicants, and that, in point of fact, a fair proportion of

them are at all times of what is commonly called Orthodox belief.

For the remaining class of students, the young men of moderate circumstances, a reduction of the annual charge for instruction would be desirable, and would be gladly made by the Corporation should the legislature furnish them the means of reducing that portion of their income which is derived from tuition fees.

2. The next object to which the legislative bounty, if granted us, might be advantageously applied, is the procuring of apparatus in the various scientific departments, the increase of the mineralogical and other scientific cabinets and collections, and the completion of the set of instruments required at the Observatory. It will readily be understood, that objects of this kind are of prominent importance in a place of education. The departments of science to which they pertain are progressive. New truths and facts requiring new experimental illustrations are constantly discovered in natural philosophy. Without taking into account deterioration by use, antiquated apparatus in the lecture-room is as useless as antiquated machinery in a manufacturing establishment. The advancement which has been made within thirty years in spinning and weaving is not greater than that which has taken place in physical science. Hence the necessity, in a well-provided lecture-room, for a constant supply of new and often expensive apparatus. This remark applies with equal force in chemistry, with the additional consideration, that of the apparatus and the substances required for experiments in chemistry a considerable portion is consumed and destroyed in the using. In like manner, constant accessions must be made to a mineralogical and a geological cabinet, to keep it up to the standard of the science. We have an ample mineralogical cabinet at Cambridge, formed chiefly within the last twenty-five years, containing, also, very valuable articles belonging to the geological branch. We have, however, nothing that can be called a systematic geological collection, and the formation of such a collection will be one of the first objects to engage the attention of the Professors in our new Scientific School. For this

purpose, and to make those additions to the cabinet of minerals which are required for the illustration of a progressive science, a moderate fund is needed. If these additions are not made, the value of the collection is soon impaired. It sinks by degrees into a scientific toy-shop, — a mere exhibition. A collection of minerals formed and arranged a century ago would have but little more value, for the illustration of the present state of the science, than a collection of porcelain. As for geological systems, they are the growth of the last fifty years.

The wants of the Observatory for the present will be less urgent than those of the other scientific establishments, but will be constant. New and improved instruments will be from time to time required. Our Observatory is amply furnished for almost every description of celestial observation, but astronomy is as much a progressive study as any other branch of science. Although we had at Cambridge, before the new Observatory was built and the new instruments procured, a good many instruments, mostly presented from time to time by the friends of the institution, during the period which has elapsed since the burning of Harvard Hall in 1764, — instruments some of them of considerable cost, and deemed at the time of value, — there was not one of them with which an observation of the heavens of any scientific value could be made.

Now, for the purposes I have enumerated, we have no funds at Cambridge whatever. However great may be the necessity for adding an article of philosophical apparatus, a series of minerals, a new astronomical instrument, we have no means of doing it but those furnished by the general funds, or by a separate appeal to the liberality of our friends. It is in this last way that a magnificent mastodon was procured two years ago, at an expense of \$ 3,000, and still more signally, it is in this way that we have been provided with our great telescope, at an expense of \$ 20,000. But these are efforts of liberality not often to be repeated. Recourse ought not to be had to *extra* bounty for the supply of regular wants. Establishments kept up by casual supplies of this kind will inevitably be stinted ; particularly in matters which, though important, are too

small to warrant an appeal to the liberal friends of the University. Besides this, the persons actively engaged in government and instruction, being those who are best acquainted with the wants of the College in all these respects, have full occupation for their time, and have no leisure for the work of habitual solicitation. Finally, there is such a thing as wearing out one's welcome.

3. Another very important object of expenditure is the Library. *I would call it the *most* important, if I knew degrees in these matters, all of first-rate interest and necessity. Our library, it is true, is large ; at least it seems so in this country. It exceeds 53,000 volumes, which is one tenth part of the estimated size of the library of the British Museum, — one twentieth part of the reported size of the royal library at Paris. Still it may be asked, are not 53,000 books enough ? Can any mortal man read 53,000 volumes ? To which I readily reply, no one can read a tenth or a fiftieth part of that number of books, to any advantage ; at least if they are of the size of many of the mighty folios that adorn our shelves. But a public library is not for the use of any one man, or any one class or set of men, having the same tastes, objects, and range of study. It is for our numerous body of instructors in their several departments ; for four or five hundred students, graduates and undergraduates ; for a long list of other persons, having, by the standing laws, the right of borrowing books from the library ; and it is for the public at large ; for no individual having occasion to consult it, for any serious purpose, literary or scientific, is ever refused.

Again, of the 53,000 volumes, a portion are of no great value. Many volumes are given to public libraries, because they are hardly worth the room which they occupy on the shelves of private collections. Then the value of books is changeable, as of all other human things. Hundreds of volumes in every department, once useful, or thought so, cease to have any value for present use ; except as they illustrate the history of the human mind, or incidentally establish a date or a fact. There is, I admit, a real use, in this way, even of the poorest book. Public libraries reject nothing that is

not abominable. It may sometimes be important in literary history to prove that a book is worthless ; — to show that the doctrines it teaches have no foundation, or that it teaches them in an unprofitable manner. It is valuable in the library, because it may be important, for some purpose to prove that it is valuable nowhere else.

This, however, is but a very subordinate object in what may be called a *working library*, such as we wish ours to be. Such a library must be well provided with books of direct, positive utility. These are of two classes ; — the great standard works which are never antiquated, and the valuable new books which are constantly appearing in every department of science and literature. Our library is amply supplied with many of the books belonging to the first class ; thanks to the bounty of the Hollises and other noble benefactors in earlier or later days. But it is surprising how small the number is of books which are of unchanging value, — I mean, Sir, in reference to the wants of a library. Take, for instance, the Grecian and Roman classics, which of all human compositions are those which have longest commanded the admiration of mankind. As writings, their value has stood the test, in many cases, of more than two thousand years. But the value of any given *edition* is transitory. In many cases, each generation requires a change. Critical learning is not less progressive than science. I do not mean that the old edition becomes worthless, but the new edition cannot be dispensed with. It would look like pedantry to try to establish this proposition by examples. I will only say, in general, that there is not a critical dictionary, Hebrew, Greek, or Latin, not a critical edition of the Greek or Hebrew Scriptures, or of a Latin or Greek classic, not an Encyclopædia, nor a general work of reference of any kind, published before the commencement of the present century, which would answer all the wants of a thorough student at the present day. There are old books not to be dispensed with, but none which make the new ones unnecessary. Of most of the works belonging to the classes enumerated, I might say the same, taking a period, not of fifty, but of twenty-five years.

And then, Sir, the progressive portions of science and literature properly so called. Take the great modern science of Geology, which may be said, in its systematic form, to date from Cuvier and the close of the last century ; — a science which comes so near to the interests of the miner, the agriculturist, and the engineer, and in reference to which thousands of volumes have already been published, and hundreds are annually appearing. There is not a work a hundred years old of any systematic value in this department. I do not say there are no old books which contain valuable hints and facts ; but that there is no elementary treatise of earlier date, which has a present scientific value. The modern science of Chemistry is a little older, but not much. It dates from the last quarter of the eighteenth century. You cannot have a bleachery, print-works, or a dyeing establishment, without knowledge, and that in the most recent form, derived from this science. The books of a hundred years old will not give it to you ; they have no other than an historical value. The whole fabric of the science is of later date ; many of the most important discoveries have been made within a very few years. Similar remarks may be made of almost every branch of Natural Philosophy. Electricity, Galvanism, Magnetism, Crystallography, Optics, Pneumatics, must be all studied in very recent books. The most brilliant discoveries in almost all of them are the product of the present century. It would be unjust to bring the date of modern Astronomy lower down than the time of Newton ; but a man might know the *Principia* by heart, and not be able to lecture to a village lyceum on the present state of the science. Although he discovered the great law by which the motion of the heavenly bodies is regulated, six only of the primary planets were known to him. Ten more have since been discovered, and five within the last two years. In most branches of intellectual and moral science, the really useful books, — I mean those of most practical utility, — are comparatively recent. All which have been contributed by Germany to the general stock are of this description. So, too, of voyages and travels, statistics, ethnography, — departments in which the modern press has been un-

usually prolific. This class of books contains many new publications of great cost and value ; we have but very few of them, not even of those which pertain to our own continent, though our collection of books relative to America is said to be larger than that of any other public library. We have not, I am sorry to say, even a copy of the Reports of the United States Exploring Expedition.

Now, Sir, for new books in all the departments of art, literature, and science, we have barely \$ 800 a year, a sum inadequate to the purchase of the new works of value which annually appear in any one department. What is the consequence ? It is twofold ;—first, all, who have studies which must be pursued, are obliged to have private libraries of their own, a steady drain on small incomes ; and, secondly, they are obliged to endure at every turn the mortification and disadvantage of remaining in ignorance of the present condition of the sciences, or to take it at second hands from the reviews. There can be no cheerful progress, no first-rate scholarship, under such circumstances.

Nor is it for the immediate benefit of the University or its members that the Library is useful. Although of necessity they are most directly benefited, yet we strive to make it generally useful to the public and the country. It is at all times open to the studious and inquisitive. Our books and the appliances for using them are always at their command. In special cases, books are sent to remote parts of the country. We have, since I have been connected with the University, permitted them freely to be sent, not merely to distant parts of our own State, but to New York and Washington. I believe this has always been the practice. This favor would never be refused, unless the rarity and value of the book were so great, as to make it improper to take the risk of transportation to a distance. We should be glad to make the Library still more useful, by making it regularly accessible to larger numbers. It must be considered, however, that this implies an increased number of attendants ; and that the support of the establishment, to the amount of more than \$ 3000 per annum, is a charge upon the University, which, for want of

funds, is necessarily assessed on the students. But I must pass from this topic to the consideration of the last with which I will trouble the Committee ; which is,

4. Assistance to meritorious young men in indigent circumstances. This is an object to which we should gladly apply greater means than we possess. I have already stated that there are two funds available for this purpose at Cambridge, viz. the Beneficiary Fund of the College, yielding an income of thirteen or fourteen hundred dollars, and the " Loan Fund," yielding an income somewhat less. These funds are by us distributed without regard to sect or party ; but our University is entirely without the range of the great educational charities. One student only at Cambridge, at the present time, as far as is known to me, receives aid from any one of them. Now there is a class of young, whom it would be very desirable to help beyond the extent of our present means. Young men of rare talent and promise ; who, though barely able to get along with the assistance of public and private bounty, are compelled to make efforts and seek occupations by which their progress is delayed and often their health impaired. I know such cases, Sir ; they have painfully excited my deepest sympathies. I have known instances of young men, of the finest powers and the most exemplary characters, supporting themselves for fifty or sixty cents a week, and I have scarcely dared ask myself the question, how the twenty-one meals are to be got out of this sum. These, Sir, are the young men to be helped. They deserve it ; they will repay it in valuable service to their day and generation.

I know that the fountains of private charity are deep and perennial. But is it quite right to draw exclusively upon them ? Does the State owe nothing to these its most meritorious children ? It is an acknowledged duty of the legislature to support the common schools ; but I am not aware that this duty rests on any other grounds, than those which equally enjoin a reasonable care for the higher places of education.

I apprehend, Sir, that there is some misconception on this point, and that, while it is admitted and felt to be a popular

interest to provide for the common schools, and see that their advantages are within the reach of the entire population, it is not thought to be equally a popular interest to facilitate the acquisition of a collegiate education. This seems to me a radically erroneous view ; and, unless we are prepared wholly to deny the benefits of such an education, we must admit that the poorest children of the community, who show peculiar aptitude for the purpose, ought, to some practicable extent, to be aided in obtaining it. Unless this course is pursued, you in reality confine the advantages of a college education wholly to the wealthier classes, except so far as private benevolence may extend them to those less favored of fortune.

I must say, Sir, that this does not strike me as a popular doctrine, in the proper sense of the word. It is not such a doctrine as tends to the improvement of the *People*. With all our republicanism, we might take a lesson on this head from other governments. There is much ampler provision by law in Massachusetts for extending the blessings of a common school education to the whole community than there is in any country of Europe, with perhaps a single exception. It is not so in respect to higher education. Numerous ancient foundations in England afford the means to a considerable number of persons, in the humblest walks of life, of obtaining the best education which the country affords, and of eventually rising in this way to the highest posts of church and state.

I hope I shall not be understood to intimate that a college education is essential to greatness or usefulness in any of the walks of life. I do not forget that we are in the city where Franklin was born and Bowditch died. I claim for such an education only what the universal consent of mankind allows it to be, — the appropriate training, in the majority of cases, for the professional career, for scientific eminence, and literary distinction.

I have thus, Sir, gone through, in rather a desultory manner and without premeditation, such remarks as occur to me in support of our memorial or in explanation of its objects. I presume not to enforce upon this honorable Committee the

duty of the Commonwealth to foster *all* institutions for education. What was done in former days is known to all who have read the history of the State. You will find, Sir, on the list of grants and gifts prepared by the Treasurer, that, for a long course of years, and out of the slender means of the Province, annual provision was made for the support of the President and one or more of the Professors of Harvard College. Yes, Sir, in the poor old Colony times, — in paper-money times, — in old tenor times, — in time of war as well as peace, — the current of the public bounty never ceased to flow in that direction. Since the Revolution, the great era of our prosperity, from which nearly all the disposable wealth of the country, public as well as private, dates, that current, as far as the Colleges are concerned, has all but dried up. The last of the annual grants to Harvard College dates from 1786. I have not forgotten the munificent appropriation, in 1814, of \$ 16,000 a year for ten years to the three Colleges in the State, of which ten sixteenths were allotted to Cambridge ; an act of public bounty never to be mentioned but in the language of admiration and gratitude. A fourth part of this sum was given in aid of the education of meritorious young men in indigent circumstances, and the residue was appropriated to building the Medical College in Boston, and University Hall at Cambridge.

I am not, however, of the number of those, if any there are, who have despaired of the renewal of the public patronage in favor of our Colleges. Our ancient and venerable Commonwealth has not changed her character. Old and prosperous, she will not cast off the interests which she found means to foster in her youth and her poverty. If in this generous career she has paused, it has been to gather strength to move onward more vigorously. She has had other great objects of her bounty. She has had hospitals to found, and asylums to endow, and she has done it with a munificence that gladdens the heart of her dutiful children. The wealth of the Indies could not purchase for her the riches of character she has laid up for herself in these endowments ; and now that she has provided for these worthy objects, has es-

tablished an ample fund in aid of her schools, has taught the blind to see and the deaf to hear, and gathered the forlorn and desolate of every name into her maternal bosom, she will renew, I doubt not, that care for the higher interests of education which formed her glory in other times.

By the Constitution of the Commonwealth, it is made "the duty of legislatures and magistrates, in all future periods of this Commonwealth, to cherish the interests of literature and the sciences, and all seminaries of them; especially the University at Cambridge, public schools, and grammar schools in the towns." Since the formation of the Constitution, three new Colleges have been chartered by the legislature, two of which have, equally with Cambridge, a claim on the parental bounty of the Commonwealth. The Constitution recommends them equally with us to your fostering care. I rejoice in the liberal grant to one of them the last session, as an indication that a feeling, on the part of the legislature, in favor of extending the public patronage to the collegiate institutions, is still alive and active. It is one of the pleasantest circumstances connected with the present application, that the several Colleges are united in it. We are happy—I know I may speak for my brethren as well as for Cambridge—thus to coöperate with each other;—and in asking a boon for ourselves to ask it at the same time for our sister seminaries. I will not pretend to say I had *rather* it should go to them than to us. We are not commanded to love our neighbour more than ourselves; but I do say, with great truth, that, should we obtain the aid we ask for, it will heighten our satisfaction that it is shared by our colleagues.

After Mr. Everett had concluded his remarks, a few observations were made by Hon. S. A. Eliot, Treasurer of Harvard College, in farther explanation of the condition of the funds of that institution. The substance of these observations will be found at the conclusion of the statement of the "Donations to Harvard College from its foundation to the present time," which has been subsequently printed and furnished to the members of the Committee on Education.

President Hitchcock then addressed the Committee. He remarked, that he appeared before the Committee, to testify by his presence, rather than by words, his interest in the petition of the Colleges for pecuniary aid. While listening to the very lucid remarks of President Everett, however, a few things had suggested themselves which he would throw out.

And he first wished the Committee to know how cordially all the Colleges had united in this petition. Amherst College had summoned a meeting of the Trustees in mid-winter to consider the subject ; and they had unanimously voted to unite in the petition. Two of those Trustees (John Tappan Esq. and Hon. William B. Calhoun) were present, and would doubtless be willing to give their views on the subject.

President Hitchcock contended that the Colleges deserve aid from the government, in return for the service they are rendering the community. Some do, indeed, speak of colleges as aristocratic institutions, and but poorly adapted to the wants of the age. But the fact, that nearly all their graduates are speedily taken into the service of the public, shows that as yet no substitute has been provided for colleges, and certainly, as long as there is a demand for them, they should be sustained. They do not, indeed, meet all the wants of the community ; and we must have Normal Schools, Scientific Schools, Agricultural Schools, &c. ; but none of these, nor all of them, can ever be a substitute for colleges. The latter certainly do exert a prodigious influence upon the welfare of the community ; and therefore justice, as well as the constitution of the State, requires that, if they need aid, the government should give it.

And they do need such aid to meet the increasing demands of the age for men of more finished education. We had just heard that even Harvard University needs this assistance asked for ; and surely, if this be true, he (President Hitchcock) need not spend time in showing that Amherst College needs it ; for although, in consequence of the liberality of the State last year and of generous private benefactions, that institution breathes more freely than it has done, it still must struggle hard to

meet the demands of the public, and keep the charges to students as low as they now are, without more assistance.

Now as to the University at Cambridge, President Hitchcock contended that it did need pecuniary help, as President Everett maintained. True, that institution has ample funds ; but the scale of its operations is necessarily large ; and what truly liberal member of the great republic of letters would wish it reduced, when almost every thing else — our population, our wealth, our enterprise, and our literature and science — is rapidly increasing ? If this institution possesses larger funds than some others, it is no reason why aid should be withheld ; for it is the result of its greater age, the beneficence of the State and of individuals, and of its favorable position for a great institution ; and at least some of its appendages are such as every citizen of Massachusetts and of the country should take a pride in sustaining and enlarging. Take for instance its noble library. Though in the keeping of Harvard College, its benefits are enjoyed by every citizen of the State, if he chooses. At present we cannot expect that such libraries will be numerous in our country ; and where could a better location be found than this enjoys, from whose vestibule a steam-whistle might reach the ears of nearly two hundred and fifty thousand people, — and so near the central point of so many railroads, steamboats, and other public conveyances ? If in a foreign land, what citizen of Massachusetts would not feel as if he shared in the reputation of such a library ? Independent of all local preferences, and prejudices, and sectarian feelings, we should all feel a deep interest in the increase of this library ; and when we hear President Everett stating that at present only \$ 800 annually can be appropriated to its increase, every scholar knows how totally inadequate this sum must be to keep pace with the progress of literature and science, to say nothing of supplying its deficiencies in earlier works.

President Hitchcock referred also to the Scientific School recently established, in connection with the University, by the princely munificence of a gentleman of Boston. Here you have one of those practical institutions about which so much

has been said, and which has been so much demanded by the popular voice ; a school for making our sons practical chemists, as well as practical botanists, zoölogists, and engineers, and scientific artisans and agriculturists, and, in connection with the new Observatory, practical astronomers. Ought not the State to second these private efforts to raise up men, who shall be prepared to develop successfully our natural resources, and to direct most scientifically the numerous processes of the arts ? And although the other Colleges do not possess the ample resources of the Lawrence Scientific School, yet they do possess cabinets of natural history and astronomical observatories by individual benefactions ; and should they not be aided to give those resorting to them a better acquaintance with these practically useful subjects ? How can they otherwise obtain those expensive instruments, which are requisite to make their observatories and other means available ?

It has been said, that an increase of funds tends to convert the officers of our Colleges into drones, by taking away the necessity of strenuous exertions. And a few years ago it was loudly asserted, that many of the officers at Harvard College were an example of this effect. At that time President Hitchcock had taken the Annual Report of the University, where the details of the daily labors of the officers are given, and compared those labors with what he knew of the duties of professors in other colleges ; and he came to the conclusion, that, in the academic department of the University, the professors work as hard as in other institutions. And although some gentlemen of distinction are connected with the College, as professors, who probably do little except to give lectures, yet they are men whose services the public would not wish to see dispensed with ; but which must be, if they were compelled to attend to the daily routine of the institution, and take part in its police duties. He considered, therefore, that these charges were entirely unfounded, and that few men are more diligent and thorough in their work than the Professors of Harvard University, who are immediately concerned in its instruction and government. Nor was there any reason to fear that the aid asked for in this petition would convert the offi-

cers in any of our Colleges into sinecurists ; for it asks you to confine that aid to the purchase of books, apparatus, and specimens, and to the reduction of expenses, — objects, all of which will make increased exertions necessary on the part of professors. Now, their efforts are often in a measure paralyzed by the want of such means ; and we only ask for enough of them to remove discouragement and stimulate to exertion. Some of us know very well what it is to be disheartened, by the consciousness that we have not, and cannot procure, such elevated means of instructing young men as the state of the world demands. We ask not for the means of increasing our salaries, but for the means of giving a better education to the young men who graduate at our Colleges. What would build two or three miles of railroad would often enable a college to do this, that has struggled for years with every embarrassment, and has not been crushed in despair only because New England men, when engaged in a good cause, make it a rule *never to despair*.

One of the most important objects for which the petitioners ask aid is, the reduction of the expenses of a college course to indigent, talented young men ; and every one will appreciate the importance of this object. But many will doubt whether such would be the effect of governmental assistance. Yet how could the funds fail of being thus applied, if specifically appropriated for this object ? Besides, such has been the effect of assistance from the State. President Everett has just stated, that a part of the funds granted some years ago to Harvard University were thus applied. A part of the aid given by the legislature last winter to Amherst College was appropriated to a liquidation of its debts, and the remainder to the endowment of a Massachusetts Professorship of Chemistry and Natural History, — thus named in grateful commemoration of the act. By this aid, the Trustees were enabled to reduce the charges of tuition, and they have reduced them twelve per cent. accordingly. If such effects, then, have followed the benefactions of the State in former years, is not the presumption strong that it would be so in future ?

Another argument to enforce the petition urged by President Hitchcock was, that this assistance to the Colleges would indirectly advance the interests of common schools. He maintained, that whatever makes a college education more perfect tends to raise the character of common schools, and *vice versâ*. For it is well known that professional men, especially clergymen, who are mostly graduates, exert a great influence upon the character of common schools. And the larger their attainments, the more desirous will they be of raising the standard of primary schools ; whereas, if the college standard be low, it will be an incubus upon the primary schools.

President Hitchcock also urged the claims of this petition on the ground, that it would stimulate wealthy and benevolent individuals to go and do likewise. Such individuals wished to bestow their benefactions where they would do the most permanent good ; hence they would select those institutions that were sure to be permanent and respectable, rather than those which were feeble and of uncertain existence. The history of our Colleges showed, that where the government had given its tens, individuals had bestowed their hundreds. Taking the permanent funds of those institutions as a basis of judgment, it was probably literally true, that individuals had given nine tenths where the government had bestowed one tenth. Governmental patronage had always proved an attractive and fruitful *nest-egg*. It was good policy, therefore, as well as justice, for the government in this way to promote the cause of education and sound learning.

Finally, it was urged, that the example of other States and kingdoms should stimulate Massachusetts to grant the prayer of this petition, if she would not forfeit her fair-earned distinction in the promotion of learning. He would say nothing of the liberal manner in which colleges and universities had been endowed by the more arbitrary governments of Europe. But he feared, that, if the history of the liberality of New York, and even of Pennsylvania, towards their colleges, for a few years past, were made known, that of Massachusetts would seem very meagre and stinted ; not at all corresponding

with her generous care of common schools. We cannot believe that Massachusetts will long suffer such a comparison to mortify the noble pride she feels to stand foremost in the promotion of education, in the widest sense of the term. President Hitchcock had not the statistics of this subject at hand ; but he was confident that the facts in the case would sustain this view of the subject.

President Hitchcock concluded by saying, that this petition was a matter of little personal moment to those who presented it. If granted, its benefits could not be fully realized till the period when he, and probably those whose names stood before his, shall have left their present places, and not unlikely all earthly scenes. He hoped, therefore, that the Committee, in whose enlarged views and practical wisdom he placed great confidence, would at least believe, that the petitioners were influenced by a desire to promote the best interests of the State, and not by narrow personal views ; and he committed the subject cheerfully to the wisdom of the legislature, with a strong belief, that a cause which is based upon the principles of justice, and must so directly promote, not the cause of learning merely, but the public good, will not long plead in vain before the constituted authorities of such a State as Massachusetts.

President Hitchcock was followed by John Tappan, Esq., who gave some account of the struggles which had been made by the friends of Amherst College, of the insufficiency of their Library and Apparatus, and the want of funds suitably to replenish them ; of the necessity, as President Everett had remarked, of continued additions to the Library and Apparatus to keep up with the progress of the age. He also adverted to the importance of having a LARGE CENTRAL LIBRARY in Harvard University, embracing all the modern works, to which not only literary men, but artists and inventors, could have access, as they now do, through the courtesy of the government of the College. As well might we expect our mechanics and farmers to be satisfied with the tools and agricultural implements used by their Revolutionary sires, as that the wants of the men of letters and inventors could be met by the tools and books of that generation.

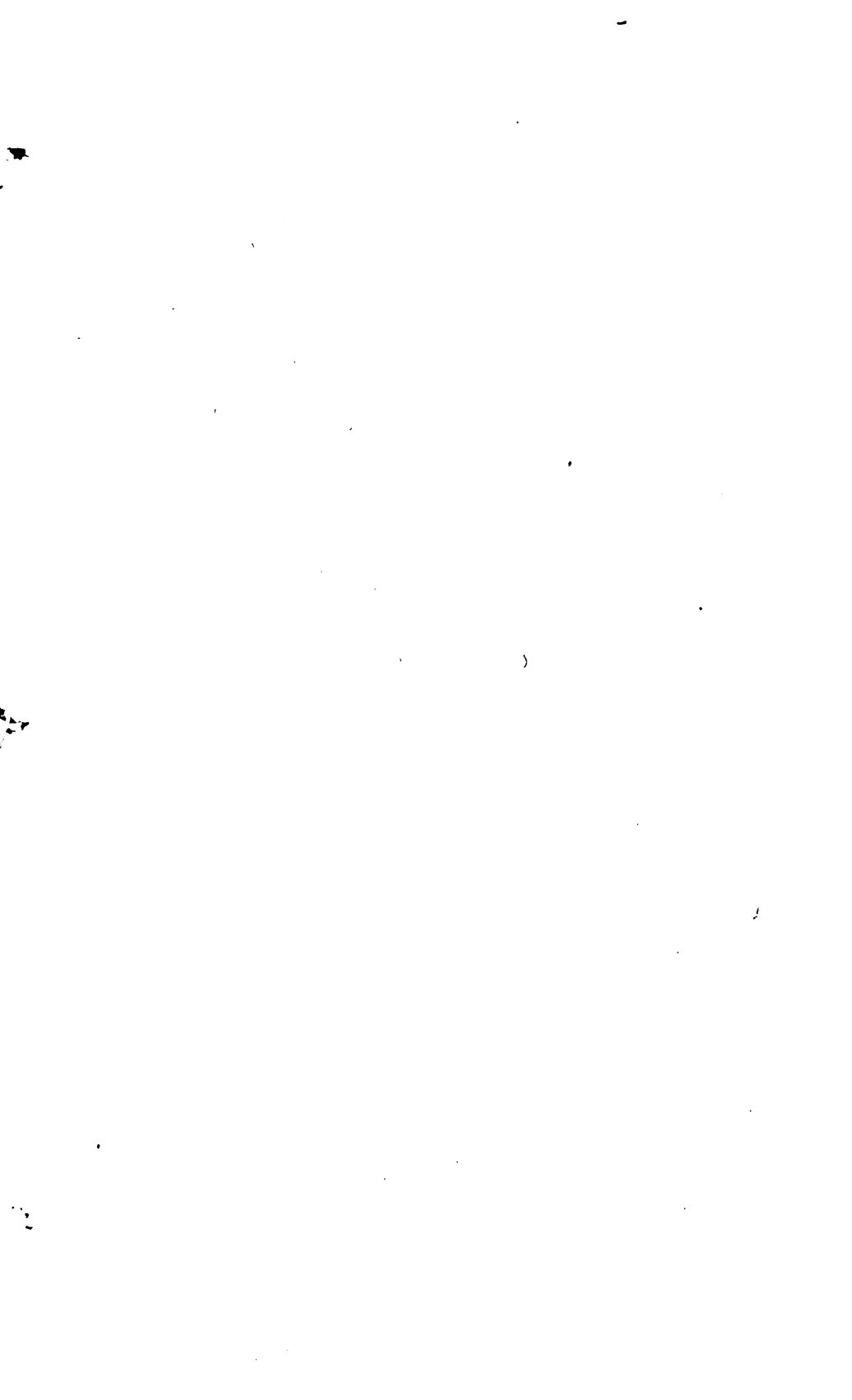
President Hitchcock begged to interpose an additional observation. Mr. Tappan had not confined himself to the expression of his good wishes for the prosperity of Amherst. He had followed them up with the most liberal benefactions. He (President Hitchcock) remembered the new life infused into the College, at a moment of depression, on receiving some of the books which Mr. Tappan's bounty had enabled them to purchase.

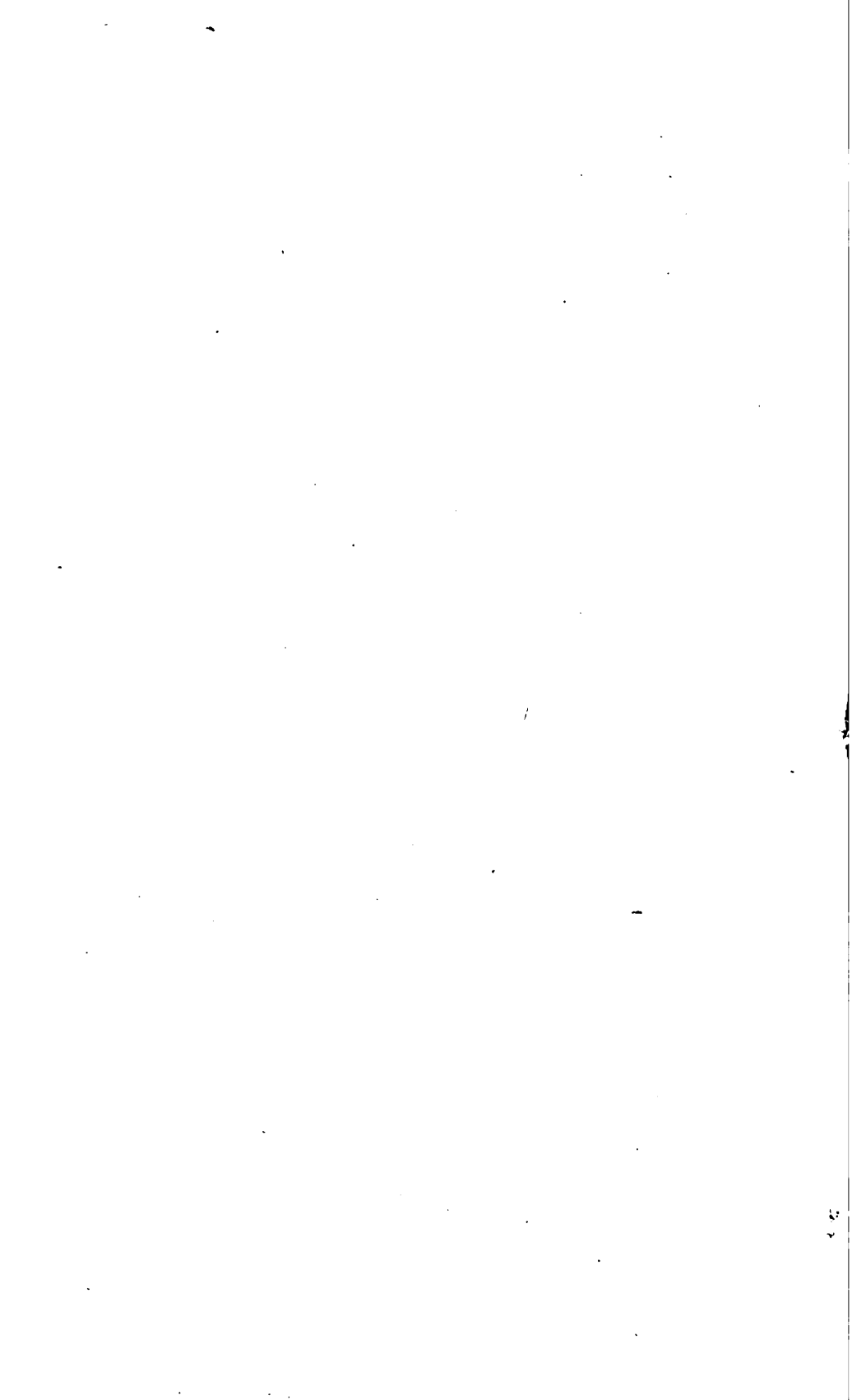
The Committee were next addressed, in a highly impressive manner, by Hon. W. B. Calhoun, Secretary of State, who expressed his full assent to the general train of remark of the gentlemen who preceded him; and dwelt on the duty enjoined upon the legislature by the Constitution of the Commonwealth, to protect and foster the collegiate institutions. It is deeply regretted that it has not been practicable to furnish a copy of Mr. Calhoun's remarks.

Some conversation followed upon the facilities granted the public at large for consulting the Library at Cambridge; and it was stated to be the object and policy of the Corporation to render it as extensively useful as possible.

Mr. Everett then asked permission to address a remark to the Committee in reference to Williams College. It was a matter of sincere regret to him, that the gentleman at the head of that institution had not been able to appear on this occasion. His added testimony and the weight of his authority would have been of extreme value. And as the interests of Harvard and Amherst had been represented, Mr. Everett hoped it would not be thought officious in him to say, on behalf of Williams College, that he believed whatever share of the public bounty should be extended to that institution would be most usefully employed. It was conducted by learned, able, and faithful men; and had reared some of the most useful citizens to the public service. He could not but repeat the expression of the satisfaction it had given him (and he spoke for all intrusted with the government of Harvard), to be engaged in a common effort with their sister seminaries; —

which they regarded in the light, not of enemies and rivals, but of allies ; —believing that every well-conducted place of education was a friend of every other. He expressed his deep obligations to President Hitchcock for the kind and liberal manner in which he had spoken of Harvard. Mr. Everett, in conclusion, thanked the Committee for the patient hearing they had been pleased to grant the friends of the Colleges, and commended the memorial to their liberality and that of the legislature.





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